

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communications device transmitting/receiving data over a network and making a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine, said device comprising:

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

receipt control means for controlling receipt so as to preferentially receive data identified as the response data by the data identifying means over other data.

2. The communications device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the data identifying means determines whether data to be received over the network is the response data by comparing a size of the data to be received to a predetermined data size.

3. The communications device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for storing received data; and

storage control means for controlling storing to the storage means so that after storing the received data, the storage means is left with empty space needed to store the

response data.

4. The communications device as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the receipt control means controls the receipt when a request is made for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine.

5. A program for causing a computer to operate, when a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine is embedded in transmitted data, as:

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over a network is response data to a response request; and

receipt control means for controlling receipt so as to preferentially receive data identified as the 'response data by the data identifying means over other data.

6. A computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to operate, when a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine is embedded in transmitted data, as:

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over a network is response data to a

response request; and

receipt control means for controlling receipt so as to preferentially receive data identified as the response data by the data identifying means over other data.

7. A communications device, comprising:

transmission/receipt means for transmitting/receiving data over a network;

response request embedding means for embedding a response request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine in transmitted data;

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

receipt control means for controlling the transmission/receipt means so as to preferentially receive data identified as the response data by the data identifying means over other data.

8. The communications device as set forth in claim 7, wherein

the data identifying means determines whether data to be received over the network is the response data by comparing a size of the data to be received to a predetermined data size.

9. The communications device as set forth in claim 7, further comprising:

storage means for storing received data; and

storage control means for controlling storing to the storage means so that after storing the received data, the storage means is left with empty space needed to store the response data.

10. The communications device as set forth in claim 7, wherein

the receipt control means controls the receipt when a request is made for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine.

11. A program for causing a computer to operate as:

transmission/receipt means for transmitting/receiving data over a network;

response request embedding means for embedding a response request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine in transmitted data;

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

receipt control means for controlling the

transmission/receipt means so as to preferentially receive data identified as the response data by the data identifying means over other data.

12. A computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to operate as:

transmission/receipt means for transmitting/receiving data over a network;

response request embedding means for embedding a response request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine in transmitted data;

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

receipt control means for controlling the transmission/receipt means so as to preferentially receive data identified as the response data by the data identifying means over other data.

13. A communications device transmitting/receiving data over a network and making a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine, said device comprising:

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the

response request; and

receipt control means for ranking, concerning receiving of data, data identified as the response data by the data identifying means higher than other data.

14. The communications device as set forth in claim 13, wherein:

the communications device transmits/receives data through a network and a relay device, the relay device receiving and storing data addressed to the communications device over the network and for assigning identity information and a serial number to each of stored data sets, the stored data sets being renumbered where necessary so that they are serially numbered; and

when data is to be received from the relay device, the receipt control means changes a data receiving ranking by way of a request to the relay device from a ranking indicated by the serial numbers.

15. The communications device as set forth in claim 13, wherein

the data identifying means determines whether data to be received is the response data by comparing a size of the data to be received to a predetermined data size.

16. The communications device as set forth in claim 13, further comprising:

storage means for storing received data; and

storage control means for controlling storing to the storage means so that after storing the received data, the storage means is left with empty space needed to store the response data.

17. The communications device as set forth in claim 13, wherein

the receipt control means ranks the data if the request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine is made.

18. A program for causing a computer to operate, when a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine is embedded in transmitted data, as:

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

receipt control means for ranking, concerning receiving of data, data identified as the response data by the data identifying means higher than other data.

19. A computer-readable recording medium on which is

recorded a program for causing a computer to operate, when a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine is embedded in transmitted data, as:

data identifying means for determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

receipt control means for ranking, concerning receiving of data, data identified as the response data by the data identifying means higher than other data.

20. A communications method of transmitting/receiving data over a network and making a request for a response to a data transmission from a receiving-end machine, said method comprising the steps of:

determining whether data to be received over the network is response data to the response request; and

preferentially receiving data identified as the response data over other data.